

Dear FCC,

Violent TV programming occurs daily and in increasing frequency. Even the ads for violent TV shows are too violent. The effects of this pervasive TV violence is a desensitization by the viewer toward violence, which is an unnatural emotional state for an animal which a human being is. Natural human emotions to violence are lost with this desensitization.

Also violence is accepted as normal behavior. Our desensitization to it is accepted as normal.

Violence also terrifies and traumatizes individuals with natural, inherent, animalistic reactions to violence (those individuals who have not been desensitized because of limited exposure to the violence).

Programming with portrayals of killings, shootings, stabbings, beatings, rapings, and gory, bloody bodies should be your focus in this inquiry into TV violence. Explicit violence needs to be removed from the TV, an in-your-living-room phenomenon in this country. Since families are in that living room, TV violence needs to be relegated to adult venues, not the family living room. Explicit violence is defined as portrayals, and actual video footage, of violent acts which are legally unacceptable in social interaction. See criminal law for a complete listing. It's not hard to define; it's been done by the judicial system. TV shows should be required to have no explicit violence; only implicit violence should be allowed. Implicit means you show that you are going to do it, but no one really sees you do it.

Just as our society covers up Playboy magazine's front cover from the view of our children and youth, so should our society set standards which protect our children and youth from TV violence. The 1st Amendment's right to freedom of speech does not take away the society's right to maintain standards that provide adult guidance to the youth of the society in relation to violence on TV. An adult has the freedom of speech to make a violent movie; an adult has the freedom to see a violent movie. The society also has the right to make adult decisions to allow children to pass from childhood into adulthood without being exposed to adult material until they have reached adulthood when the freedom of speech is applicable. Therefore, TV viewing is defined as an activity of not only adults but also the youth of the nation and, therefore, needs to be regulated as a venue for children and youth.